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TOWN TALK

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STATINTL

'Murder Will Out'

The case of Povl Bang-Jensen, Danish diplomat and ousted assistant secretary of the UN Committee on Hungary whose body was found in a park in the outskirts of New York City on Thanksgiving Day of 1959, is closed. So says the New York Police Department which called his death a suicide.

Released last week by the Internal Security subcommittee of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary of its lengthy report on its investigation of the case seems likely to reopen it, however.

In the introduction, outlining the concern of the subcommittee in the national security aspects of the case, Sen. Thomas J. Dodd, vice chairman, said: "If proper security measures did not exist in the UN's Hungarian investigation (Bang-Jensen was fired for refusing to reveal the names of secret witnesses who feared Soviet reprisal), it was important to determine how this would affect our national security . . ."

Mr. Dodd added: "If Bang-Jensen was approached by defectors who had information concerning Soviet penetration of the UN secretariat and of American intelligence, this had a very direct bearing on our national security; and if he had in fact attempted to convey this information personally to Mr. Allen Dulles but had been unable to do so, then this, too, was directly relevant.

"Finally, if Bang-Jensen's death was not suicide, if he was the victim of political assassins operating on American soil, as some suspect, again the national security would be involved."

Testimony of Mrs. Bang-Jensen and Judge Robert Morris, former chief counsel of the subcommittee, based on conversations with the victim, emphasized Mr. Bang-Jensen's conviction of Red infiltration of the UN, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the U.S. State Department, along with his frustration at his inability to impart what he knew to the head of the CIA (Mr. Dulles), or to secure hearings and asylum for the defectors.

The subcommittee in its "Summary of Facts and Findings" said "the finding of suicide was based on incomplete evidence . . . There are too many solid arguments against suicide, too many unanswered questions, too many serious reasons for suspecting Soviet motivation and the possibility of Soviet implication . . ."

In short, the New York Police Department slighted its duty.

If it did, so did some more highly-placed American officials long before the sorely-tried Mr. Bang-Jensen became a police case. Plainly, there is more work to be done — in Washington as well as in New York.

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